Ranking Tool Summary for FY2014 - Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (Released 12/27/2013)

Description:
Through the EQIP Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative, NRCS will assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The initiative has the potential to assist producers in addressing a resource concern by improving plant quality, improving soil quality, reducing nutrient and pesticide transport. In the National Questions only answer numbers 2, 5, 7 and 9
Land Uses:
Associated Agriculture Land, Crop, Farmstead
Efficiency Score:
Scoring Multiplier: 1.000
Optional Notes:
National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000 Questions:

Number	Question	Points			
1	a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.				
2	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?				
2	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?				
2	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?				
3	a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15			
3	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?				
3	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?				
4	a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?				
4	b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?				
4	c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?				
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 5			
5	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?				
6	a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?				
6	b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?				
7	a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?				
7	b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?				
7	c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?				
7	d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?				
7	e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?				
7	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?				
8	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15			
8	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?				
8	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10			
9	a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?				
9	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?				
9	c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5			
	Total Points	500			

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.130 Questions:

Sub- heading	Question Number	Question	Points
Number 1		Answer ALL of the following criteria that apply regarding the project?s impact on addressing resource concerns. Maximum points 250.	
	1	a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to improve plant productivity, health and vigor.	65
	1	b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants in areas where they are not typically suited or adapted to grow.	65
	1	c The Schedule of Operations includes practices or supports the use of existing practices (such as; cover crops, residue management, and residue and tillage management) which will result in a positive Soil Condition Index (SCI) score as determined by RUSLE II.	45
	1	d The Schedule of Operations includes supporting practices necessary to support a new or existing seasonal high tunnel in order to address soil erosion.	45
2		Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address excess nutrients and organics in surface water.	
	2	a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.).	65
	2	b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body?.	25
3		Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address harmful levels of pesticides in surface water.	
	3	a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.).	65
	3	b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body?.	25
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Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 0.800 Questions:

Sub- heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	If the applicant is approved, the Seasonal High Tunnel will be utilized in non- profit, community gardens type programs.	59
	2	If the applicant is approved, the Seasonal High Tunnel will be utilized in for-profit community supported agricultural (CSA) type ventures.	42
	3	If the applicant is approved, the Seasonal High Tunnel will be utilized for personal consumption.	33
	4	If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where annually planted, labor intensive, high value specialty crops such a vegetables or greens are currently grown.	49
	5	If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where Perennial labor intensive, high value specialty crops such as berries, nuts or woody ornamentals are currently grown.	38
	6	If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where traditional agronomic crops such as corn, wheat or soybeans are currently grown.	29
	7	If approved is this the applicant's first EQIP contract?	21
	8	If the applicant who is applying for EQIP is also a previous/present contract holder or has been associated with a contract, has the applicant ever had a contract out of compliance or modified to reschedule a practice without a meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-21
		Maximum Points: Total Points	250